Ministry of Welfare. Mass communication media is being used increasingly to create awareness in the general population. Special projects for treatment and rehabilitation are also being prepared and implemented. An Inter-Ministerial Group has been formed to coordinate the activities on this front.

Dues payable to N.D.M.C. by Members of Parliament

68. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee has to realise a sum of Rupees 21 lakhs from a number of present and former Members of Parliament on account of water and electricity charges;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, separately; and

(c) what steps the New Delhi Municipal Committee has taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Inhuman Treatment at Children's Home in Pandav Nagar, Delhi

69. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express of 14th May, 1986 regarding the inhuman treatment meted out to the inmates of the Children's Home in Pandav Nagar, Delhi by forcing the children to eat human excreata as a punishment for stealing;

(b) whether Government have made any inquiry regarding this odious punishment given by the Supervisor of the Home in particular and in the working of the Children's Home in general; and

(c) if so, what is the result thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter?

MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Home in question is run by Bhartiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, a voluntary organisation, wtih the help of grants from Government. On the basis of the preliminary inquiries held by Delhi Administration, the Manager of the Home has been suspended and is being proceeded against. The honorary worker who was incharge of the Home has been dis-associated from the activities of the Home.

Suicide by Scientists in ICAR

70. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) who have committed suicide since 1970; and

(b) whether Government have inquired into the causes/circumstances leading to their suicide, if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government in each of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENTRA MAKWANA): (a) Three.

(b) Enquiries have been conducted into all the cases of suicides. Information in respect of the cases is given in the statement appended.

Statement

The cases relating to the suicides of the scientists are given as under:—

(1) Dr. S S. Batra, Assistance Research Officer (Veterinary) Southern Regional Station, National Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore died on March 28, 1970. His dead-body was found lying in the well of

National Dairy Research Institute Campus in Bangalore. A Diary was found in his pocket which contained a few addresses only. It could not be established whether it was a case of suicide.

(2) Dr. V. H. Shah, Senior Agronomist and Associate Coordinator, All India Maize Improvement Project, Indian Agricultural Research Institute committed suicide on 5-5-1972. The allegations made by late Dr. Shah were examined by the ICAR Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gajendragadkar. Dr. Shah's principal complaint that he had been overlooked by a Selection Committee of the ICAR was not found justified by the Committee which upheld the selection of the scientist selected. The second complaint related to the appointment of another scientist as Head of the Division of Agronomy. Dr. Shah was not a candidate for this post. The Ministry of Law expressed the opinion that on the basis of the records available, there was no evidence that the members of the Selection Committee acted malafide or capriciously. The Ministry of Law opined that the appointment of the selectee was not illegal.

The other complants relating to scientific personnel, research and extension were also looked into by the committee and all its recommendations were duly examined and necesarsy action was taken on the recommendations as accepted by the Government.

(3) Shri S. V. Raghvan, Scientist Grade S. I, ICAR committed suicide on 15-10-1980 at the residence of his cousin in Karol Bagh, New Delhi. He had been transferred to Delhi from Indian Veterinary Research Institute. Izatnagar in April, 1979 on compassionate grounds and he was staying with his parents. It is understood that his father had been missing since the 10th April 1980. It is reported that because of this unfortunate domestic development, Shri Raghvan was mentally upset and had been under the treatment of two psychiatrists. It is understood from the police that Shri Raghvan left no suicide note.

Loss due to hurricane in Rajasthan

71. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated loss of life and property following a devastating hurricane which recently struck the Bharatpur and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan; and

(b) what is the nature and extent of the Central assistance given to the Government of Rajasthan to meet the situation and the reasons for not meeting their demand in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) As per the memorandum submitted by the State Government of Rajasthan seeking Central assistance in the wake of cyclone, 19 persons lost their lives in Bharatpur and Dholpur districts.

The loss of property is reported as under:—

(1) No. of houses damaged: 2732

(2) Damage to Government Property: 42.89 Lakhs.

(b) The request of the State Government for Central assistance is under consideration.

Drought and famine in Rajasthan

72. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: